

## CAPITAL AREA COAST GUARD RETIREE COUNCIL

### NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2004

- Extracts from the Minutes of the Capital Area Coast Guard Retiree Council Meeting held from 0900 to 1145 on October 29 2004 in Room 6103 of Coast Guard Headquarters-

#### Council Program – OLD BUSINESS

**Council Christmas Cards** – The Retiree Council finalized plans to send Christmas/New Year greetings to Coast Guard retirees over the age of 70 in the Capital Area Retiree Council area. The Christmas Card Committee, established at the July 30 Council meeting volunteered to handle the production and distribution of the cards

**Retiree Council Newsletter** - Following discussion the Council agreed to :

- Publish a quarterly report on Council activities.
- Produce, periodically update, and publish a list of available newsletters (web sites) addressing subjects of interest to Coast Guard retirees.
- Recommend that the Coast Guard Retirees' newsletter "Evening Colors" publish the list of newsletter (web sites).

CAPT Farmer commented that the Headquarters Support Command was compiling a list of local Coast Guard retirees who agreed to receive information from the Retiree Council. He noted that the Retiree Council would have the responsibility of managing this list of correspondents.

CAPT Schneeweis commented that Evening Colors already includes several pages listing points of contact for retiree and annuitant services as well as telephone numbers and web sites for access to information on retiree medical and dental benefits, veterans benefits, service records, and other important subjects. He suggested that the Retiree Council work with the Editors of Evening Colors to augment their list of web sites and newsletters containing information of interest to retirees.

**Retiree Benefit Seminar** - CAPT Bud Schneeweis, CAPT Norm Lemley, and CDR Bruce Russell reported on the findings of the Retiree Benefits Seminar Exploratory Committee established at the May 7, 2004 Council meeting. They reported on two sets of issues: *logistic* arrangements (meeting place, scheduling, and resource requirements and availability) and *topics* to be covered. They suggested that participation in the planning for the Seminar be broadened by requesting feedback from Retiree Council members to a survey attached to the Minutes of this meeting. They suggested that it might be possible to schedule the Seminar sometime in the spring or summer of 2005. Two sites for the Seminar were mentioned for consideration: Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, DC, and the Coast Guard Telecommunications and Information Systems Command (TISCOM) in Alexandria, VA.

CAPT Schneeweis and CDR Russell presented a suggested list of topics to be covered. The list of topics is included in the Survey.

#### Council Programs – NEW BUSINESS

**Compass Briefing** - LCDR Necia Chambliss, Program Manager for the Coast Guard's COMPASS program made a presentation. LCDR Chambliss explained that the Coast Guard is striving to improve diversity in all of its components - active duty, reserve, auxiliary and civilian employees - to better meet the challenges of the 21st century. One initiative now underway is the "COMPASS" Diversity Outreach Program. Originally designed to specifically address the Reserve workforce gap, the program has been expanded to include personnel gaps throughout Team Coast Guard. The purpose of Compass is to reach out to diverse communities from every compass point of American demography. The desired outcomes of this effort are to increase awareness in communities unfamiliar with the Coast Guard, and to increase the diversity of the pool of people interested in being a part of Team Coast Guard. The program is designed around a core group of Team Coast Guard volunteers representing a diverse mix of backgrounds. Compass members may be active duty, reservists, civilian employees, auxiliaries, and Coast Guard retirees.

Many Coast Guard retirees have first-hand experience in a variety of Coast Guard missions and are embedded in civilian society nationwide. They are often affiliated with veteran associations and fraternal organizations that include leaders in community affairs, education, health services, churches, boy and girl scouts, and other important civilian sectors. The COMPASS program is seeking those retirees who are knowledgeable about Coast Guard missions, are practiced and accomplished in influencing public opinion, and who subscribe to the objective of increasing minority membership in Team Coast Guard.

Each COMPASS team member is linked to a local recruiting office. Compass members attend both local and national events, such as conferences of professional organizations, collegiate or ethnic career fairs, high school career days, and local community organization events. Participation at events may be initiated by a Compass member, by a CG unit, or by a recruiter. Once approved by the Compass Manager, and contingent upon funding, any costs associated with the event are funded by Compass. Compass funds travel, per diem, and registration fees. Additionally, Compass funds appropriate duty pay for reservists not wishing to expend IDT drills. Volunteers serve approximately six to eight days per year, and all COMPASS activities are on a noninterference basis with unit operations. The COMPASS team currently has approximately 160 members nation-wide.

Coast Guard retirees interested in joining the COMPASS team are invited to contact LCDR Chambliss at (202)267-6237 or [nchambliss@comdt.uscg.mil](mailto:nchambliss@comdt.uscg.mil)

Currently the COMPASS program is considering involvement in the National Boy Scout Jamboree being planned for July 25 – August 3, 2005 at Fort A.P. Hill in Caroline County Virginia. This might provide an opportunity for interested and Boy Scout qualified Coast Guard retirees to participate as COMPASS members in this important national event.

There was discussion regarding the need for improvement in reserve recruiting across the board. LCDR Chambliss remarked that Coast Guard did not reach its objectives for enlisted reserve recruiting in 2004 and that among those that were recruited minorities were under-represented. Thus there is a continuing need to prioritize recruiting of minorities.

CDR Russell asked about the disposition of the Council's initiatives on Recruiting Assistance. CAPT Glass commented that the Capital Area Retiree Council had submitted two proposals to the Coast Guard Recruiting Command to assist in the SMART recruiting program and had no specific responses. CAPT Schneeweis volunteered to contact the Recruiting Command to elicit their response on the Council's Recruiting Assistance initiatives. It was agreed that this subject would be discussed at the next Council meeting.

CAPT Schneeweis asked LCDR Chambliss if the COMPASS program had promotional material. LCDR Chambliss reported the availability of pamphlets and a DVD illustrating Coast Guard activities. She also commented on the availability of portable display screens which were used for meeting displays. CDR Russell and CAPT Lemley noted that it might be appropriate to display COMPASS promotional material at a Retiree Benefits Seminar so as to update retirees on current Coast Guard activities, and recruiting priorities. LCDR Chambliss agreed to consider COMPASS participation in the Seminar.

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## **Supplement to the October 2004 NEWSLETTER**

### **WASHINGTON, DC AREA RETIREE COUNCIL CHARTER**

This Charter officially establishes the Washington, DC Area Retiree Council, Washington, DC. The main function of the council is to represent the retired community as advisors to the Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Headquarters, and the Commanding Officer, Headquarters Support Command on matters relating to current and future issues affecting the retired military community. The council shall assist commanding officers in development of a strong communication link between the retired community and area units.

**RESPONSIBILITIES.** Provide the National Coast Guard Retiree Council Chairperson and local commanding officers with insight into the problems and needs of all retirees, their dependents, and widows/widowers of retirees.

- Participate and communicate with the active and reserve Coast Guard communities.
- Receive information from the National Coast Guard Retiree Council regarding legislation and Coast Guard policies that affect retirees, and influence the same by providing input to the National Coast Guard Retiree Council.
- Assist in and develop public support for Coast Guard programs (recruiting, sponsor programs, etc.)
- Assist retirees and widows/widowers with resolution of problems associated with the active-retired relationship.
- Assist retirees and widows/widowers with decedent affairs issues.
- Hold group sessions to discuss and make recommendations and proposals on retiree programs, trends, etc.
- Establish liaison with other Service-affiliated organizations (TROA, FRA, ROA, NAUS, CWOA, CPOA, and others, as appropriate).
- Forward emergent issues which are beyond local interest and control to the National Coast Guard Retiree Council via the Commanding Officer, Headquarters Support Command, Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Headquarters, and Commandant (G-WPM)

**MEMBERSHIP:** The local council will consist of 10 or more members, representing, if possible, all categories of retirees: officer, enlisted, disabled, minority, retired reservists, and annuitants (widow/widowers). Council members will be appointed by the chairperson in response to nominations from the council. Commanding Officer, Headquarters Support Command should be represented at meetings.

**CHAIRPERSONSHIP:** The chairperson may be a retired officer or enlisted member, appointed by the Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Headquarters from nominations submitted by the council.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:** The Commanding Officer, Headquarters Support Command (or other host command, as appropriate) shall provide a meeting area, office equipment, and supplies for preparation of minutes and other correspondence.

- Periodically encourage retirees to submit ideas, suggestions, and recommendations on subjects of interest to the local council.
- Provide a representative at all meetings.
- Resolve issues of local interest at unit/council level.
- Forward issues directed to the National Coast Guard Retiree Council.

**MEETINGS:** The local council will meet once each quarter, or more frequently, if necessary.

**REPORTS:** Minutes will be prepared and submitted to Commanding Officer, Headquarters Support Command, who, in turn, will forward the minutes to the National

Coast Guard Retiree Council with copies to the Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Headquarters and Commandant (G-WPM).

- Issues submitted for consideration by the National Coast Guard Retiree Council and Commandant (G-WPM) will be addressed in a reply to the chairperson and published in the Retiree Newsletter.

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**R. C. OLSEN, JR., RADM, USCG**

Director of Personnel Management